

Fort Sheridan Blacksmith Shop
(Building No. 77)
North side of Thorpe Rd.
Fort Sheridan
Lake County
Illinois

HABS No. IL-1113-22

HABS
ILL,
49-FTSH,
1/22-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20243

FORT SHERIDAN, BLACKSMITH SHOP (Building No. 77)

FORT SHERIDAN HISTORIC DISTRICT

HABS
ILL,
49-FTSH,
1/22-

Location: On the north side of Thorpe Road across from the
Forge Warehouse (Building No. 39). Fort Sheridan,
Lake County, Illinois

USGS Highland Park Quadrangle, Universal Transverse
Mercator Coordinates: 16.432830.4673790

Present Owner
and Occupant: United States Army

Present Use: The Repair Shop

Significance: A Holabird and Roche building which was designed to serve
as a cavalry blacksmith shop and which adds to the compre-
hensiveness of the 19th century building inventory at Fort
Sheridan.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1892
2. Architect: Holabird and Roche, Chicago
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Army from date of con-
struction to the present.
4. Contractor: Jonathan Clark and Sons Co.
5. Original plan and construction: A rectangular, single-story,
brick building with a hipped roof. The ridge of the roof
runs north-south, and the entrances are in the short ends.
Originally there was a skylight along the top of the ridge of
the roof and five chimneys along the west side.
6. Alterations and additions: Three of the five chimneys have
been removed. The slate roof covering has been replaced with
cement asbestos shingles and the skylight removed from the
roof. In 1954 the building was converted to use as a paint
shop, and the main southern entrance was enlarged and squared
off. In 1974 the windows were replaced.

B. Sources of Information:

1. Original architectural drawings:

Holabird and Root, 300 West Adams St., Chicago, Illinois
60606. Plans, elevations, detail of entrance doors, and full

scale detail of cornice and gutter. Drawings are water damaged.

2. Bibliography:

Papers Relating to Fort Sheridan. Office of the Quartermaster General Consolidated Correspondence Files, 1784-1915 and Office of the Quartermaster General, Construction Division, Record Group 92. National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C.

Real Property Records, Directorate of Facilities Engineering, Fort Sheridan, Illinois.

Prepared by Sally Kress Tompkins
Architectural Historian
Historic American Buildings Survey
June 1979

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A plain, brick building with wide arched entrances and segmental arched, flat topped brick lintels over the windows reflecting the Richardsonian Romanesque influence which characterizes the Holabird and Roche buildings at Fort Sheridan.
2. Condition of fabric: Generally good.

B. Description of exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: A single story, rectangular block 25'-3" by 65'-6" with three bays on the short ends.
2. Foundations: Not visible but probably limestone rubble.
3. Wall construction, finish, and color: Buff-cream brick laid in common bond with five rows of stretchers to one row of headers. A brick belt course encircles the building at the level of the window sills. Two projecting rows of stretchers, the lower being more recessed, encircle the building above the brick lintels of the windows.
4. Structural systems: Brick bearing wall.
5. Chimneys: Two interior brick chimneys are located on the west side of the roof. Both have metal braces tied into the roof structure.

6. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: The arched entrance on the south end has been enlarged and modified. It is now rectangular with a brick-on-edge course above it. A large overhead wood door with four lights has been installed, and a small single door with two lights has been cut through the center of it.

The doorway on the north gable is formed by a rounded arch of four rowlocks. The arch is infilled with wood and a small single door with three horizontal panels and four lights has been installed in the center.

A single metal door has been installed in the northernmost of the windows on the west side

- b. Windows: The windows are topped by segmental arched, flat topped, gauged brick lintels and have concrete sills. There are single windows flanking the doorways on both the north and the south ends and five windows along the west side. A sixth window on that side has been modified to form a door. The window next to it on the south is boarded up. The remaining windows are one-over-one-light double hung sash. The frame are painted gray.

On the east side two very large windows with metal frames, each having thirty lights, dominate the southern half of that side. The metal frames are painted green. These windows appear to be a recent addition.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The hipped roof is covered with cement asbestos shingles.
- b. Cornice, eaves: There are wide eaves with soffit boards and outriggers painted a dark green.

C. Description of interior:

1. The interior of the building is one open space. The walls are brick painted green and off white. The floor is concrete. The roof structure is visible. The lower section appears to be original; the upper section where the skylight had been has been replaced. The metal lever which controlled the windows in the skylight is still in place. The bases of the five original brick chimneys utilized by the blacksmiths are still in place.

D. Site:

The south gable end faces Thorpe Road and the Forage Warehouse (Building No. 39) which is across the street. The north half of the building is behind a fence which encloses the motor pool yard and a number of temporary buildings.

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PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) under the auspices of the Interagency Archeological Services, Atlanta and funded by the U.S. Department of the Army, Fort Sheridan, Illinois. It included a historical and architectural survey of the fort to provide the necessary data for implementation of the Fort Sheridan Historic District. Documentation was obtained on thirty-one buildings. The survey and documentation were accomplished by Sally Kress Tompkins, an architectural historian on the HABS staff, under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief of HABS; Kenneth Anderson, Principal Architect; Carolyn Pitts, Principal Historian, and Allen Chambers, architectural historian and editor. The photographs were taken by William Kumpf of Architectural Camera, Chicago.